

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS PHYLLIS SMITH

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff MONTGOMERY
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Andrew M. Milz, Esq.
Flitter Lorenz, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Avenue, Suite 101, Narberth, PA 19072, (610) 822-0782

**DEFENDANTS MERCANTILE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU,
LLC**

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE
LAND INVOLVED.

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question
(U.S. Government Not a Party) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) |

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

PTF	DEF	PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	PROPERTY RIGHTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability		<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans)	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage	<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle	<input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 390 Other Personal Injury		<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury			<input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability				<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise				<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	SOCIAL SECURITY	<input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting	<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)	<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment	Habeas Corpus:	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations	<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare	<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI	<input type="checkbox"/> 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights		
	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition		
			FEDERAL TAX SUITS	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act	
			<input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)
			<input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from another district (specify) _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|--|

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

Brief description of cause: FDCPA 15 USC § 1692

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint
JURY DEMAND: Yes No.

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 4/8/15 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD 

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

APPENDIX I

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

PHYLLIS SMITH	:	CIVIL ACTION
	:	
V.	:	
	:	
MERCANTILE ADJUSTMENT BUREAU, LLC	:	NO.

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. §2241 through §2255. ()
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits ()
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. (X)
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ()
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases) ()
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. ()

4/8/15
Date

Amilz
Attorney at Law

Andrew M. Milz
Attorney for Plaintiff

(610) 822-0782

Telephone
(Civ.660) 10/02

(610) 667-0552

Fax Number

Amilz@consumerslaw.com

E-Mail Address

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

APPENDIX F

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: 30 Gelding Lane, Horsham, PA 19044

Address of Defendant: 165 Lawrence Bell Drive, Suite 100, Williamsville, NY 14221-7900

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 30 Gelding Lane, Horsham, PA 19044

(Use Reverse Side For Additional Space)

Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?
 (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))

Yes No

Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?

Yes No

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:

Case Number: _____ Judge: _____ Date Terminated: _____

Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:

1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?
 Yes No
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?
 Yes No
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?
 Yes No

CIVIL: (Place in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)

A. Federal Question Cases:

1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
2. FELA
3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
4. Antitrust
5. Patent
6. Labor-Management Relations
7. Civil Rights
8. Habeas Corpus
9. Securities Act(s) Cases
10. Social Security Review Cases
11. All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify) FDCPA, 15 USC § 1692

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. Airplane Personal Injury
3. Assault, Defamation
4. Marine Personal Injury
5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. Products Liability
8. Products Liability (Asbestos)
9. All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify)

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION

(Check appropriate Category)

I, _____, counsel of record do hereby certify:

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;

Relief other than monetary damages is sought

DATE: _____

Attorney-at-Law

Attorney I.D.

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 4/8/15

CIV.609 (4/03)

Attorney-at-Law

207715

Attorney I.D.

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

PHYLLIS SMITH
30 Gelding Lane
Horsham, PA 19044

Plaintiff,

vs.

CIVIL ACTION

MERCANTILE ADJUSTMENT
BUREAU, LLC
165 Lawrence Bell Drive
Suite 100
Williamsville, NY 14221-7900

Defendant

NO.

COMPLAINT

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is an action for damages brought by a consumer pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 (“FDCPA”).
2. The FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from engaging in unfair or unconscionable practices in the collection of a consumer debt.

3. Defendant is subject to strict liability for sending a collection letter that exposes personal identifying information visibly on the envelope placed into the mails.

II. JURISDICTION

4. Subject matter jurisdiction of this Court arises under 15 U.S.C. §1692k, actionable through 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1337.

III. PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Phyllis Smith (“Plaintiff” or “Smith”) is a consumer who resides in Horsham, Pennsylvania at the address captioned.

6. Defendant Mercantile Adjustment Bureau, LLC. (“Defendant” or “Mercantile”) is a nationwide debt collector with a principal place of business at the address captioned.

7. Defendant regularly engages in the collection of consumer debts using the mails and telephone.

8. Defendant regularly attempts to collect consumer debts alleged to be due another.

9. Defendant is a “debt collector” as that term is contemplated in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

IV. STATEMENT OF CLAIM

10. On or about September 19, 2014, Defendant Mercantile mailed a collection notice to Plaintiff in an attempt to collect an old FIA Card Services debt alleged due. A copy of the September 19, 2014 letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A (redacted in part per Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2).

11. The alleged debt arose from primarily personal, family or household use and was thus a consumer debt.

12. The collection letter was mailed by Mercantile to Plaintiff in a fold-over envelope. (*See Exhibit “A”*)

13. Directly visible on the fold-over envelope was the reference number that Defendant assigned to Plaintiff and her account.

14. The reference number (ending in 132BI1) constitutes personal identifying information.

15. The FDCPA prohibits the use of unfair or unconscionable means to collect or attempt to collect a debt, including the use of any language or symbol other than the debt collector's name and address on any envelope when communicating with a consumer by mail. 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(8).

16. The reference number is a piece of information capable of identifying Smith as a debtor, and its disclosure has the potential to cause harm to a consumer that the FDCPA was enacted to address. *Douglass v. Convergent Outsourcing*, 765 F.3d 299 (3d Cir. 2014).

COUNT I
(FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT)

17. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained above as if the same were here set forth at length.

18. Defendant's acts described above violated the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act by the use of language or a symbol on any envelope when communicating with a consumer by mail, in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1692f(8).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Phyllis Smith demands judgment against Defendant Mercantile Adjustment Bureau, LLC for:

- (a) Damages;
- (b) Attorney's fees and costs; and
- (c) Such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper.

VII. JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. 38, Plaintiff demands trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted:

DATE: 4/8/15



CARY L. FLITTER
THEODORE E. LORENZ
ANDREW M. MILZ
Attorneys for Plaintiff

FLITTER LORENZ, P.C.
450 N. Narberth Avenue, Suite 101
Narberth, PA 19072
(610) 822-0782

EXHIBIT "A"

35A RUST LANE
BOerne, TX 78006-8202



[REDACTED] 132 BI1

FIRST CLASS MAIL
AUTO
US POSTAGE PAID
NIAGARA FALLS, NY
PERMIT NO. 1

CDBGR-W2 1 AB *A-01-MUG-BM-08377-41



SMITH, PHYLLIS T
30 GELDING LN
HORSHAM PA 19044-1153



To Open - Fold & Tear Along Perforation

To Open - Fold & Tear Along Perforation

To Open - Fold & Tear Along Perforation

To Open - Fold & Tear Along Perforation